बढ़ सके, उसको हम सुरक्षित रख सकें? कैसे आप यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि वह रेल-पटरी बिछने के बाद सुरक्षित रहे, इस बारे में भी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कोई विचार किया है या कोई तकनीक अपनाई हैं?

श्री नीतीश कुमार : सभापति महोदय, इलाका कठिन है, इसका सबको एहसास है। जो काम करने वाले लोग उस पर काम कर रहे है उनको बधाई मिलनी चाहिए, उनको हर प्रकार का समर्थन मिलना चाहिए कि इतनी कठिन परिस्थितियों में वे काम कर रहे हैं और परिस्थिति से जूझ रहे हैं। ट्रैक बन जाने के बाद उसकी सुरक्षा के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर उपलब्ध जो भी इस तरह के इंतजामात संभव होंगे, वे भी लगाने की कोशिश की जाएगी।

*186. *[The questioners (Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya and Bachani Lekhraj) were absent for answer vide page* 38 *infra.]*

Central Assistance for Orissa

*187. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:†
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rivers and drainage system in Orissa are afflicted with pollution;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that for taking up integrated drainage, sewage and solid waste management programmes, the State has sent a proposal for Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the status of the request made by the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Based on the pollution load analysis, projects relating to Orissa in four towns names, Cuttack, Dharamshala, Chandbali and Talchar on the rivers Mahanadi and Brahmani and the coastal

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Ms. Pramila Bohidar.

town of Puri have been included under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) at an approved cost of Rs. 72.27 crore. Of these, four Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of works of Cuttack and Puri have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 55.13 crore. DPRs for the balance works were found deficient and have been returned to the State Government for revision. Govt. of Orissa has submitted preliminary proposals for pollution abatement works at Cuttack on river Mahanadi and Kathjori and at Bhubaneswar on river Kuakhai and Daya at an estimated cost of Rs. 1020 crore. However, these works cannot be included under the ongoing NRCP due to non-availability of matching outlay in the Tenth Plan.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for sanctioning an amount of Rs. 55.13 crores for Cuttack and Puri in respect of pollution abetment works. Now that the hon. Minister has agreed that industrial areas like Rourkela, Angul and Sambalpur would be included in pollution control projects, I would like to know what strategies they have to achieve this.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as NRCP is concerned, in 31 stretches of rivers in 18 States, 157 towns have been included at an approved cost of about Rs. 4,000 crores, and the sanctioned amount is about Rs. 3,000 crores. As far as Orissa is concerned, the projects sanctioned are to the extent of Rs. 72.27 crores. For Cuttack and Puri, it is Rs. 55.13 crores. The hon. Member has suggested that more projects should be undertaken. You have suggested that we should have more projects. This is for the information of the hon. Chairman and the House that Rs. 3 crores have been provided by the Government of India and Rs. 2 crores by the State Government of Orissa, as far as the Puri project is concerned. Only 81.23 lakhs have been spent in the past two years. So, Sir, I can only request, through you, that they should take up the projects which have already been sanctioned and see to it that they are completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take up this matter of arrangement of finances with the State Government.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for the sanction of Rs. 55 crores for these projects at Cuttack and Puri. But I want to put something in perspective...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, this is important information that I want to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be important. But you should only put your question.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Right, Sir. Sir, Orissa has 10 per cent of the national water resources and it is going to be an important State in the river-linkage project. And if the pollution in the river water is not corrected today, we will be exporting water pollution to the rest of the country. In view of this, Sir, will the hon. Minister agree to accord a higher priority to these projects?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have already said that we are ready to accord a higher priority to these projects. Now, we have already sanctioned projects of Rs. 55.13 crores, whereas they have spent only Rs. 3.15 crores so far. What can I do?

Distribution of forest land among tribals

*188. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to grant forest land in various States for distribution among tribals;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof?

(c) whether the forest land identified by State Governments for the purpose have been cleared by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated percentage of forest cover which would be reduced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.